

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are pending herein. Applicants have amended claim 3 to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

Attached hereto as page 3 is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 3 by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

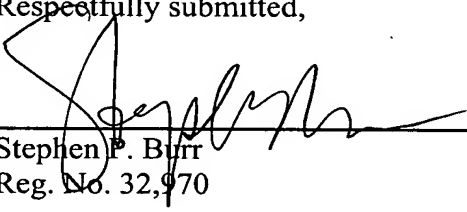
If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

December 6, 2001

Date

  
Stephen P. Burr  
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/eav

BURR & BROWN  
P.O. Box 7068  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191  
Telephone: (315) 233-8300  
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**Claim 3 has been amended as follows:**

3. (Amended) The method set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said water-soluble  
compound is a composite hydroxide containing said alkali metal element. ✓

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